

Legal Notice for Opportunity to Comment

Thompson Meadow Restoration Project (52760)

Beckwourth Ranger District, Plumas National Forest

The Forest Service is seeking comments on the Thompson Meadow Restoration Project Environmental Assessment (EA). Your comments are important to the Forest Service and the planning process. Submitting project specific written comments at this time allows us the opportunity to consider your comments before completing the Environmental Assessment and draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact which are expected in March 2020.

This EA discloses the comparative analysis of the options being considered to restore the natural hydrologic function of 47 acres of degraded meadow along a 0.68 mile reach of Thompson Creek using a variety of restoration techniques including complete fill of the incised channel, in-channel raised riffle rock structures, and partial fill of the incised channel (commonly known as 'pond and plug').

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to restore channel/floodplain function of degraded meadow in order to reestablish the historical meadow water table elevation, stabilize eroding stream banks, improve water quality, attenuate flood flows, and restore meadow vegetation. A second objective of the proposed project is to improve the quality and quantity of woody and non-woody riparian vegetation along stream reaches to improve wildlife habitat and livestock forage, as well as to conduct a full water budget evaluation before and after project implementation.

Thompson Creek is a tributary to McReynolds Creek, which flows to Red Clover Creek in northeastern Plumas County. The project area is located solely on National Forest System lands within the Beckwourth Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest, approximately 11 air miles north of Portola, CA, in the vicinity of Red Clover Valley, and lies within T25N, R13E, Sections 25 and 36, Mount Diablo Base Meridian.

The Thompson Meadow Restoration Project EA document has been prepared in compliance with federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations and also serves as an Initial Study (IS) for the state California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). California Department of Water Resources is the lead agency for CEQA compliance. The EA/IS document and supporting documents are available for public review at the Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District, 23 Mohawk Road, Blairsden, CA 96103. Electronic copies are also available online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52760>. It is also possible to navigate to the project website via the Plumas National Forest webpage (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/plumas>). Select the "Land and Resources Management" tab, then select "Browse through the Forest Projects," and then find the project name.

This project is subject to the pre-decisional administrative review process pursuant to 36 CFR §218, Subparts A and B. Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR §218.2) who submit



timely, project specific written comments during a public comment period will be eligible to file an objection (36 CFR 218.24(b)(6)) and should sign the comments or verify identity upon request (36 CFR §218.24(b)(8)). Comments should be written within the scope of the proposed actions, have a direct relationship to the proposed actions, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR §218.2).

Comments will be accepted for 30 days following the publication of this legal notice in the newspaper of record, *Portola Reporter*. The publication date of this legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. You should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Electronic comments should be submitted via email to comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas-beckwourth@usda.gov. Attachments to comments must be submitted in one of the following formats only: Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), rich text format (.rtf), or Adobe portable document format (.pdf).

Comments may be mailed, delivered, or faxed to the Responsible Official, Matt Jedra, District Ranger c/o Plumas National Forest, Attn: Joe Hoffman, 159 Lawrence Street, Quincy, CA 95971 (Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), FAX (530) 283-7746.

For additional information regarding this document, contact: Matt Jedra, Beckwourth District Ranger, Plumas National Forest, at (530) 836-2575 or matthew.jedra@usda.gov; or Todd Hillaire, Senior Water Resources Engineer, California Department of Water Resources, Northern Region Office, at 530-529-7347 or Todd.Hillaire@water.ca.gov.